

Replacement Page 1, 1st Paragraph

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to self-forming gels comprised of natural, semi-synthetic and synthetic phospholipids and water.

Replacement Page 2, 1st and 2nd Full Paragraphs

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The object of the present intention is a phospholipid gel that can be formed easily and that is stable so as to withstand further processing.

In contrast to the ~~above~~ systems disclosed in the prior art, it was surprisingly found that neutral and negatively charged phospholipids in low concentrations mixed in water spontaneously form gels that are stable enough in order to be processed further, for example, to be filled into containers or syringes and to be applied to human skin or body compartments. Moreover, the gels stabilize pharmaceutical formulations, i.e., sparingly soluble materials are maintained in solution and precipitation is prevented.

The solution to the object of the present intention is therefore a phospholipid gel comprised of a neutral phospholipid and a negatively charged phospholipid and water.

Replacement Paragraph Page 3, Lines 8-24

As negatively charged phospholipids those are particularly suitable that contain a ~~"Abonsäuresalz"~~ *(translators's note: this is apparently a typing error and should read "Carbonsäuresalz" which translates to "carboxylic acid salt")* carboxylic acid salt group in the molecule. Examples of negatively charged phospholipids are, for example, phosphatidyl glycerol that is a naturally occurring negatively charged phospholipid. Further examples are dialkanoyl phosphatidyl glycerol, wherein the alkanoyl group can be derived from the above-mentioned fatty acids. To be mentioned as examples of suitable dialkanoyl phosphatidyl glycerol are dipalmitoyl phosphatidyl glycerol and dimyristoyl phosphatidyl glycerol. As negatively charged phospholipids phosphatidyl serine and phosphatidyl acid are also suitable and can contain also fatty acid chains in the molecule; in this case, the fatty acid chains can be derived from the above-mentioned fatty acids, for example, derived from palmitic acid. A further negatively charged phospholipid is, for example, phosphatidyl inositol. The negatively charged phospholipids have as cationic counter ions, preferably, alkali ions or ammonium ions. The selection of cations is not limited to certain cations as long as they are physiologically compatible.

Replacement Heading Page 5, Line 1

Examples DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS